

SECRET//NOFORN

PROJECT SUN STREAK

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER: S1 TNG	SESSION NUMBER: 1
DATE OF SESSION: 880727	DATE OF REPORT: 880727
START: 0819	END: 0835
METHODOLOGY: CRV	VIEWER IDENTIFIER: 32

1. (S/NF/SK) MISSION: Access and describe in a stage one sense training target #192, Great White Sands.
2. (S/NF/SK) VIEWER TASKING: Encrypted coordinates 8259/1062.
3. (S/NF/SK) COMMENTS: Good job on a difficult stage one site. Excellent representative ideograms. 032 had an physical inclemency of tiredness.
4. (S/NF/SK) EVALUATION: 3.

HANDLE VIA SKEET CHANNELS ONLY
SPECIAL ACCESS REQUIRED

SECRET//NOFORN

CLASSIFIED BY: DIA (DT)
DECLASSIFY ON: DADR

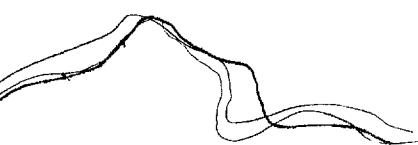
PI - TIRED

032
26 JUL 88
0819L8259
1062

A. RISING UP, PENTING
SLOPING DOWN
HARD
B. MOUNTAIN.

8259
1062

A. RISING UP,
ANGLE ACROSS
SLOPING DOWN.
HARD.
B. AOL BREAK
CITY

8259
1062

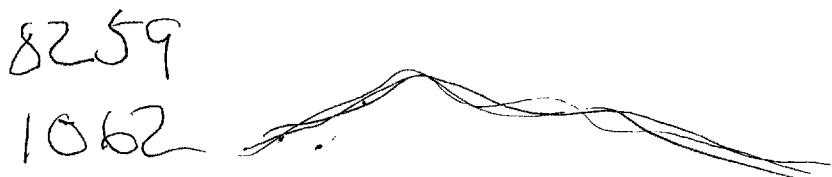
MISSING BREAK

A. RISING UP; ANGLE
ACROSS, SLOPING DOWN.
SEMI SOFT
B. NO B.
CONFUSION BREAK
NATURAL OR MANMADE

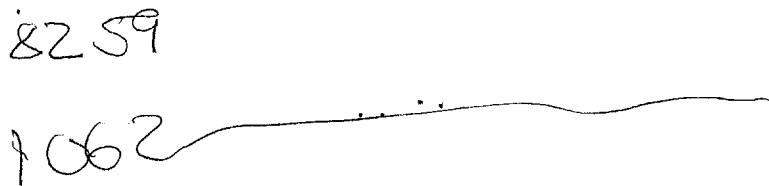


A. RISING UP,
ACROSS
SLOPING DOWN.
MAN MADE, HARD.

- B. STRUCTURE



A. RISING UP ACROSS,
SLOPING DOWN.
SEMI SOFT, NATURAL
AOL BREAK
GRASSY FIELD
ROLLING HILLS.



A. ACROSS, FLUID
B. WATER.



A. RISING UP, ACROSS
SLOPING DOWN
NATURAL - SEMI SOFT
VEGETATION
AOL BREAK
VEGETATION

8259 /
1062

A. RISING UP, ACROSS,
SLOPING DOWN.
SEMI SOFT, NATURAL

B. HILLS, LAND.

ADL BREAK

HILLS

CONFUSION BREAK

HILLS VS. LAND.

8259
1062

A. RISING UP, ACROSS,
SLOPING DOWN.
SEMI SOFT, NATURAL

B. LAND.

SITE 0835L.

CPYRGHT

New Mexico's Great White Sands

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32° 59' N
106° 24' W

Feathery Dunes of Snow-white Gypsum in a 140,000-acre "sandbox"
Make This Area Unique Among National Monuments

BY WILLIAM BELKNAP, JR.

With Illustrations from Photographs by the Author

BY the time you reach White Sands National Monument, near Alamogordo, New Mexico, you're used to mirages. So the porcelain streak you see among the heat waves simply can't be real.

You still don't believe it when you start up the eight-mile White Sands Drive.

You stop where the road touches the first dune and run your hands through the incredibly soft stuff, cool and delightful. Off come your shoes; the next impulse is to lie down and roll.

It looks and feels like fine sand, but there the similarity ends. For these hills of stunning white are wind-crumbled gypsum.*

Dunes Cast a Strange Spell

Enchantment, disbelief, puzzlement—these are typical reactions among startled visitors to White Sands. Many, like my own family, come with little more than an inkling of the scenic surprises in store.

When we turned off U. S. Highway 70 at the Monument Visitor Center, the country looked flat and unpromising. I began to wonder what there would be to photograph. Fran, my wife, rolled down her window and accepted our car permit from a ranger.

"Stay on the roads, folks, and watch our speed limits," he said cheerfully. "Have fun!"

As we drove along White Sands Drive, my disappointment quickly faded. Shimmering dunes, fresh as a wilderness snowfall, loomed ahead. Our son Buzz, 12, and daughter Loie, 10, called a halt when we reached the first drifts and shot from the car as if spring-ejected. They scampered up a near-by slope, dropped to their knees, and scooped up great handfuls.

Then the magic hit Fran and me. Matching our children's abandon, we slipped off our shoes and raced up a snowy mound.

"I had no idea it could be this beautiful," Fran said. "It's like fairyland!"

We strolled along the roadside dunes, fascinated by the way desert plants—yuccas, sumacs, and even cottonwoods—managed to keep their heads above the sugary tide. Here and there we found grotesque mounds held together by close-knit root systems (pages 126 and 127).

"Don't look back," I said to Fran as we headed for the car. "Remember the Bible story about Lot's wife? I'd hate to leave you here as a pillar of gypsum!"

Like three million visitors before us, we began to appreciate White Sands' uniqueness. Later, at the museum, we learned it is the world's largest known surface deposit of gypsum sand. Utah and Australia have some, but neither deposit rivals New Mexico's 275-square-mile display. Dunes at White Sands are not only the largest in area; they move faster, pile steeper, look whiter, and are just plain more fun than any others.

Dizzy statistics? There is enough white



* See "The White Sands of Alamogordo," by Carl P. Russell, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, August, 1935.

CPYRGHT

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A Billowing Sea of Dunes Laps the Eroded Shores of the San Andres Mountains.
Rain and melting snow carry tons of gypsum from strata near the range skyline into New Mexico's Tularosa Basin.
The solution mixes with gypsum-bearing ground water from beds beneath the valley floor.

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